

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking files contained on a storage medium, the method comprising:
  - determining that the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume first label and a unique storage medium second label, the unique storage medium first label uniquely identifying the storage medium;
  - writing the unique volume first label to a storage portion of the storage medium;
  - providing a command to generate the unique storage medium second label based on the unique volume first label, the unique storage medium second label to be associated with an external portion of the storage medium;
  - updating a database with an association between each file stored on the storage medium and a value associated with the first label the storage medium; and  
in response to determining that at least one a first file contained on the storage medium has been added or deleted, updating the database to reflect that the first file has been deleted; and  
updating the database to reflect each added or deleted file.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the database is stored on a first device, further comprising:
  - synchronizing the database with a second database stored on a second device.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the first device is a personal computer and the second device is a handheld device.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the second device is an untethered handheld device.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~unique storage medium~~ second label is a bar code label.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: wherein the act of determining a unique volume ~~the first~~ label [[is]] based, ~~at least in part~~, on state information accessible to a device upon which the database is stored.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the state information is a count sequence.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the ~~unique volume first~~ label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the storage medium.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
accepting information read from a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;  
converting the accepted information into a database key;  
requesting records from a database instance using the database key;  
accepting records in response to the request; and  
rendering information about the accepted records.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~unique storage medium~~ second label is a bar code and wherein the information read from the second label is accepted from a bar code scanner.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the accepted information read from the unique storage medium second label is read by a handheld device, and the information about the accepted records is rendered on the handheld device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the read label is converted into a database key by the handheld device, the records are requested from a database instance using the database key by the handheld device, and the records are accepted in response to the request by the handheld device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for matching file parameters with one or more external storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the method comprising:

accepting at least one search parameter from a set, the set comprising: file name, file size, file author, and file type;

generating a query based on the search parameters;

accepting one or more records a record returned in response to the query generated;

determining a label corresponding to [[each]] the record; and

determining an external storage medium, the label being affixed to an external portion of the external storage medium upon which the label is affixed.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the label[[s]] are machine to readable is a machine-readable label[[s]], the method further comprising:

accepting information read from the machine to readable machine-readable label[[s]]; and

[[if]] determining that the accepted information read from the machine to readable machine-readable label[[s]] matches information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted the record; and, then

generating a first indicator, said first indicator able to be perceived by humans.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
[[if]] determining that the accepted information read from the machine to readable machine-readable label[[s]] does not match information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted the record; and, then  
generating a second indicator, said second indicator able to be perceived by humans.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and the second indicator is a second audible sound.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein each of the label[[s]] includes a human to readable human-readable part, and wherein [[the]] information associated with each of the one or more records accepted the record corresponds to the human to readable human-readable part of the label[[s]].

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for tracking files contained on a removable storage medium, the apparatus comprising:  
means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium;  
means for generating a label;  
means for determining that the removable storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, the unique storage medium volume label uniquely identifying the removable storage medium;  
means for determining a unique storage medium label;  
means for determining a unique volume label;  
means for instructing the means for reading and/or writing files to write the unique volume label onto an external portion of the storage medium;

means for providing a command to generate the unique storage medium label to the means for generating a label;

a database, wherein the database contains an association between each file stored on the removable storage medium and a value associated with the unique volume label the removable storage medium; and

means for, in response to determining that at least one a first file on the removable storage medium has been added or deleted, updating the database to reflect that the first file has been deleted, and

means for updating the database to reflect each added or deleted file.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising: means for synchronizing the database with a database on a device apart from the apparatus.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the device is a handheld device.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the device is an untethered, handheld device.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium are at least one of a floppy disk drive, a CD ROM drive, a ZIP drive, and a DVD drive.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the unique storage medium label is a bar code label.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising: state information; and, wherein the unique volume label is determined, at least in part, means for determining the unique volume label based on the state information.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the state information is a count sequence.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the unique volume label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the removable storage medium.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:  
means for reading a label associated with the storage medium without reading the  
storage medium;

means for accepting information read, by the means for reading, from a label  
associated with the storage medium;

means for converting the read label into a database key;

means for requesting records from a database instance using the database key;

means for accepting records in response to the request; and

means for rendering information about the accepted records.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for  
reading is a bar code scanner, and wherein the unique storage medium label is a bar code.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the information about the accepted  
records rendered includes file names.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for rendering is a  
display.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising:  
the database.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising:  
means for synchronizing the database with a database maintained by a separate  
machine which created the storage medium.

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for matching file parameters with one or more external storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the apparatus comprising:

a user input device for accepting at least one search parameter from a set, the set comprising: ~~file name~~, file size, file author, and file type;

a component configured to generate a query based on the accepted one or more search parameters;

a component configured to ~~accept one or more a record[[s]]~~ returned in response to the query generated;

a component configured to determine at least one label corresponding to [[each]] the record; and

a component configured to determine an external storage medium, the label being an affixed to an external portion of the storage medium corresponding to each label.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the label[[s]] ~~are machine to readable is a machine-readable label[[s]]~~, the apparatus further comprising:

a label reader for reading information read from the ~~machine to readable machine-readable label[[s]]~~; and

an output means for generating a first indicator able to be perceived by humans [[if]] in response to determining that the accepted information read from the ~~machine to readable machine-readable label[[s]]~~ matches information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted the record.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the output means further generates a second indicator able to be perceived by humans [[if]] in response to determining that the accepted information read from the ~~machine to readable machine-readable label[[s]]~~ does not match information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted the record.

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the output means is a speaker, wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and wherein the second indicator is a second audible sound.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein each of the ~~each of~~ the label[[s]] include a ~~human to readable~~ human-readable part, and wherein [[the]] information associated with ~~each of the one or more records accepted~~ the record corresponds to the ~~human to readable~~ human-readable part of the label[[s]].

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label then the method further comprises:

generating a label based on the unique storage medium label, and  
fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

41. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising means, if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, for

generating a label based on the unique storage medium label, and  
fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the information rendered is related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the ~~one or more records accepted~~ record such that a user or a scanner can distinguish the storage medium including the label from other storage media.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
updating the database based on files deleted from the storage medium.